



**For Immediate  
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## **Sonora Jha Awarded 2017 Barry Lopez Fellowship at Playa**

**SEATTLE, WA**—Seattle writer Sonora Jha has been awarded the 2017 Barry Lopez Fellowship at Playa. The fellowship is awarded each year to a writer based in Washington or Oregon with a strong interest in issues of justice and equity whose work resonates in spirit with that of writer Barry Lopez.

Jha will receive a two-week residency at Playa Artists and Writers Retreat in Summer Lake, Oregon, as well as a travel stipend.

**Sonora Jha**, who also serves as a Hugo House writer-in-residence, is the author of the novel *Foreign*, published in 2013 by Random House India. She is a professor of journalism and media studies at Seattle University. Formerly a journalist in India and Singapore, her recent political essays and op-eds have been published in *The New York Times*, the *Seattle Times*, *Seattle Weekly*, and the *Globalist*. Apart from her academic and journalistic writing, she has just completed her second novel and is finishing work on a memoir.

The fellowship honors the work of **Barry Lopez**, known for its humanitarian and environmental focus. Lopez is the author of award-winning books of fiction and nonfiction including the National Book Award-winning *Arctic Dreams*; *Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape*, which he co-edited with his wife, the writer Debra Gwartney; and *Outside*.

Now in its second year, the fellowship is being administered by Hugo House, the Seattle nonprofit literary arts organization.

In 2016, the fellowship was awarded to Walidah Imarisha of Portland, Oregon. The 2017 Fellow was Alex Tizon of Eugene, Oregon. However, Mr. Tizon passed away unexpectedly before he could take advantage of the award. Jha was chosen as the 2017 Fellow in his place. Winners are chosen by an anonymous advisory board; there is no application process.

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## **About Hugo House**

Hugo House opens the literary world to everyone who loves books or has a drive to write—giving people a place to read words, hear words, and make their own words better through writing classes, readings and events, and residencies.

## **More Info**

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Open hours: Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and during classes and events